Through the efforts of Knox and his brother, Northrup, the Buffalo franchise in the National Hockey League was secured in 1969. From the beginning to this death, Seymour Knox III was chairman of the partnership that owned the team. Most of the time he was also president of the team.

Titles aside, the hockey-loving public knew Knox simply as the one who got the team for Buffalo and served as its head man through the years. He was the guy in the gold seats a few rows above the Sabres' bench.

Knox also kept the team here. In an age when professional owners change cities at an alarming rate, Knox was loyal to Buffalo even though its comparatively small market might have made other pastures seem greener. The point of the new arena is to make the team financially strong, securing it for Buffalo for the foreseeable future. Knox's vision made the Marine Midland Arena possible. His legacy will be the exciting hockey games of the future—games that will help make Buffalo a better place to spend the winter.

Knox was also important to Buffalo for numerous other civic endeavors. Those included the chairmanship of the Buffalo Fine Acts Academy, governing body of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, which, to a great degree, was his father's gift to Buffalo. The gallery's most distinguishing feature is its modern art collection put together with care by the late Seymour H. Knox Jr.

His son's contribution is less genteel, but a community needs many aspects to its life. It is richer for both of these gifts.

From the start, the hockey team has played at Memorial Auditorium, Buffalo's aged indoor sports place, now slipping into retirement.

At the last Sabres game in the Aud a bit more than a month ago, Knox was given a prolonged ovation by a capacity crowd. Fans know why the Sabres exist. They let it show. Knox gave a short speech, closing with the words: ''Farewell, old friend.''

Buffalo people can repeat those words today.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, today marks the 50th anniversary of one of the smartest investments this Nation has ever made, the National School Lunch Program.

In 1943, Winston Churchill said that ''there is no finer investment for any community than putting milk into babies.'' That sort of inspired investment is what the School Lunch Program is about. The only nutritious meal some children eat in a day, a school lunch can help to lengthen attention span, increase learning capacity and dramatically improve overall health.

The School Lunch Program currently operates in 95 percent of our Nation's schools and serves 26 million children each school day. It is a remarkable success, and I urge my colleagues to join me in commending the people who make that success possible, from the people at the USDA who run the program, to the State and local nutritionists who plan the meals and the school food service workers who serve them to our children. Each of them is helping to make our country stronger and healthier, and we thank them for it.

The School Lunch Act was passed not as an act of charity, not even as a matter of educational efficacy, but as a matter of national security after shocking numbers of young men failed their physicals in World War II because of preventable, nutrition-related illnesses.

Last year, Department of Agriculture updated Federal regulations to require school meals to meet the Federal dietary guidelines for Americans. The resulting Schools Meals Initiative for Healthy Children will make a good program even better.

Recognizing that simply adopting policies does not always guarantee change, the Clinton administration launched Team Nutrition in June 1995 to unite public and private organizations in promoting healthful dietary habits through schools, community organizations and the media. This groundbreaking measure also provides the training, technical assistance, and nutrition education that are critical to the School Meals Initiative's successful implementation.

Last fall marked the introduction of the Team Nutrition Schools Program, which brings together teachers and principals, schools and families, community leaders and school food service professionals to work for healthier school meals.

This fall, the USDA will build on the success of Team Nutrition by providing every school district with the help they may need to make sure the meals they serve their students meet the Federal dietary guidelines. I'm proud to have sponsored the amendment that will enable the USDA to get that information and assistance out to schools ahead of their original target date.

Our Nation has done much to alleviate childhood hunger and malnutrition in the 50 years since President Truman signed the National School Lunch Act. Rickets and other nutrition-related illnesses that once were common among poor children in this Nation are now mercifully rare because we channelled the will and resources of this great Nation against them.

But the challenge is not ended. Every month, 5 million children go hungry in this country. One out of every eight children under the age of 12. So today, as we celebrate 50 years of success with the School Lunch Program, let us remember these children and recommit ourselves to seeing that they, too, are able to share in the abundant blessings of our land.

NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE

Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I wasn't able to get to the floor during the time set aside during debate on the Defend America Act, but it's an important topic and I would like to address it now.

Mr. President, we all want to defend America and I yield to no one in my commitment to a strong national defense, but I believe the Defend America Act in its current form could actually reduce U.S. security. I reach this conclusion based on a review of four key aspects of a national missile defense system:

First, the nature of the threats that the United States faces today and will likely face 10 years from now.

Second, the technological implications of building a system today versus in the future.

Third, the question of affordability.

And fourth, the impact on existing arms reduction treaties.

On all counts, the available evidence weighs against deployment of a national missile defense system in the near term. Consider the threat. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the Soviet Union, we have witnessed a remarkable reversal in the arms race and, as such, the nature of the nuclear threat to America. The Soviet nuclear arsenal, over 13,000 nuclear weapons strong at the height of the cold war, will be reduced to about 3,500 weapons under START II. By any measure, this adds up to a more secure America.

Today, instead, the ballistic missile threat can be summed up in three scenarios: An accidental attack by land-based ICBM's from Russia or China, an unauthorized attack by a Russian submarine, or a very limited attack by a rogue nation such as North Korea or Iraq. Note, since we are addressing missile defenses, that I am referring to missile threats. This is not to suggest that other means of delivery are any less threatening, whether trucks, ships, aircraft, or even suitcases. I also consider the threat of biological or chemical attack as more likely if not more devastating than nuclear attack.

The Russian and Chinese missile attack scenarios are nothing new—we have lived with such threats for decades. But the third threat is in my mind the most problematic in the long term. While worst-case United States intelligence estimates forecast that North Korea may be only a few years away from deploying ICBM's that can reach portions of Hawaii and Alaska, other potentially hostile nations are at least a decade away from such a capability. Although their direct purchase of long-range missile components or systems is always possible, the balance of evidence suggests that it would be premature to commit to a near-term defense capability when we're not even sure when, whether, and how the threat will develop.

The Defend America Act calls for deployment by 2003, or 8 years out. It may seem as though we're splitting hairs, but this is an important distinction between those trying to mandate a date certain for deployment, and those willing to invest responsibly and deploy after the technology has proven itself and the threat is closer to the horizon.

Consider the technological implications of building a system today versus at the turn of the century or later. I